

Application No.: 09/732,066
Response dated: October 9, 2007
Reply to the Final Office Action of: April 23, 2007

REMARKS

By the foregoing amendment, claims 1, 8 and 13 have been amended. Claims 1-6 and 8-22 are pending in the application. In view of the foregoing amendments and the remarks urged here, Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner reconsider all outstanding rejections.

35 U.S.C. § 103 Rejections

The Examiner has rejected claims 1-5, 7-8, 11-12, 14-19, 21 and 22 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,035,212 to Rostoker et al. ("Rostoker") in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,466,783 to Dahm et al. ("Dahm"). The Examiner has rejected claims 6, 9-10, 13, 20, 23 and 24 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Rostoker in view of Dahm and in further view of U.S. Patent No. 6,732,176 to Stewart et al. ("Stewart").

Applicants have amended claims 1, 11 and 15 to more particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter regarded as the invention. In particular, claim 1 has been amended to recite the step of "sending, by the plug-in device, a request to a device having network telecommunications carrier activation information in a registration file provided by said selected service provider." Claim 11 has been amended to recite "an application program interface (API) tailored to a particular telecommunications carrier, wherein the API is configured to receive a network telecommunications carrier activation command from a driver device in a computer that is generic to various telecommunications carriers; and an API tailored to a particular service provider in a registration file provided by said particular service provider, wherein the API is configured to receive a service provider activation command from the driver device." Claim 15 has been amended to recite the step of "receiving, at the plug-in device, the network telecommunications carrier activation information from the device in a registration file provided by said selected service provider."

The present invention, as recited in independent claims 1, 11 and 15 is directed to a method and apparatus for handling automatic network activation for a specific provider of communication services for a portable computing device. In combination with a plug-in device for the portable computing device, the method and apparatus of the present invention tailors service with a specific provider through a registration file provided by the service provider. Therefore, the present invention contemplates a dynamic registration file which is downloaded to

the portable computing device which contains settings and preferences for the particular service provider.

By contrast, the Examiner's base reference, Rostoker, is directed to self-adapting to various operating frequencies and communication protocols for a personal communication device. However, Rostoker does not teach or suggest a dynamic registration file which is downloaded to the portable computing device which contains settings and preferences for the particular service provider. Indeed, Rostoker is simply directed to solving the problem of CDMA and TDMA network access by a single wireless device.

The shortcomings of the base reference are not overcome by Dahm or Stewart. Dahm is directed to providing a visual interface for mobile subscriber account services for a mobile device. Dahm does not teach or suggest a dynamic registration file which is downloaded to the portable computing device which contains settings and preferences for the particular service provider. Stewart is directed to storing identification information which uniquely indicates a network provider of a plurality of possible network providers on a portable computing device. However, Stewart does not teach or suggest a dynamic registration file which is downloaded to the portable computing device from the selected service provider which contains settings and preferences for the particular service provider.

Therefore, Applicants respectfully submit that a combination of Rostoker, Dahm and Stewart does not teach or suggest every claimed feature of the invention. The prior art reference (or references) must teach or suggest all of the claim limitations. In re Vaeck, 947 F.2d 488 (Fed. Cir. 1991). Since a prima facie case of obviousness has not been set forth, Applicant respectfully submits that amended independent claims 1, 11 and 15 are allowable over the cited references. Claims 2-10, 12-14, and 16-24, by their dependency on claims 1, 11 and 15 respectively, are similarly allowable. Early notice to that effect is earnestly solicited.

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Conclusion

All of the stated grounds of rejection have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. Applicants therefore respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider all presently outstanding rejections, and that they be withdrawn. The Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned representative if an interview might expedite allowance of this application.

Respectfully submitted,

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